

Excerpt from TARLTON JONES TAYLOR'S  
ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS 1500-1986  
By Gorden Jefferson Gatewood: Great Grandson 1900-

MY BRIEF STORY

M. Vane Wilks

1979

I, Marl Vane Wilks, born 19 June 1909 on the Benjamin ~~Charles~~ Carroll Wilks farm two and one-half miles south of Chalk Mountain, ~~Somerville~~ Somervell County, Texas, to simple but honest, upright Christian Parents, William ~~Westley~~ Wesley Whiteside Wilks and Erie ~~Kathrine~~ Catharine Taylor Wilks. Records will be found in Glen Rose, Somerville Somervell County, Texas. I was baptised into the Church of Christ August 1926 and have lived a consecrated life devoted to good and kindness in assistance to my fellow man for these seventy years.

In this effort, with Divine guidance, and the plotting by God Himself of the course of my life, I spent thirty years traveling to the far reaches of the earth having girdled the earth three times, and having been in fifty-six countries, governments and territories. Most of this time was as a representative of my Government as a technical advisor and consultant to ministers, generals, kings, emperors as for example Imperial Japan, Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Thailand, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Bangla-Desh, as a field representative and Development Engineer, also as Field Engineer to United Nations for Industrial Development Organization.

In this capacity I was instrumental in developing a substantially higher standard of living for 336,000,000 people and almost single-handedly lifted these people out of the Feudal age into the Twentieth century industrial age. At each step of the way God prepared me for the additional responsibilities I would need to do the more complex assignments and He also opened up the avenues each time so that I could obtain the assignments.

This program of developments began when I was six years of age and continues in my present spiritual development – in an attempt to know what God is and to be part of Him.

In my various assignments I have had opportunity to revert back in time for a brief glimpse into certain ancient cultures and civilizations. I have walked the footpaths of Alexander the Great, of Jesus the Christ, of Paul the Great Apostle, of the great and the infamous Roman Emperors, of Ginges Kahn and the other conquerors. I have traversed the Kyber Pass, the famous invasion route to the East; I've stood at the face of the Great Hindu Kush dividing mountain range of the Steppes of Russia and the Near East; I have seen the Great and Mighty Kora Koram and walked the historically famous "Silk Route" to China through Hunza to Tibet. This was the famous caravan route for traders of the East from Persia to China.

I have paddle wheeled the giant Brahmaputra-Ganges River from the Plain of Decca to the Sunderbans on the Bay of Bengal – home of the mighty "Royal Bengal Tiger"; have crossed

the great Indus River and the Indian Desert, the Sindi Desert, the Mekong River Delta; have watched in awe as the massive rain clouds poured out their 300 inches of rain upon the great rain forests of Burma and Assahn, greatest rainfall on earth.

Additional assignments have been to U.S. Armed Services Far East, United Nations Armed Services Far East, U.S. Operations Mission in Republic of Korea and Kingdom of Thailand, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and others. In my opinion not such a poor accomplishment for the son of poor share-croppers without benefit of high formal education in the beginning.

I have flown the entire range of the great Himalayas, the Kora Koran, the Carpathians, the Burma mountain fields, the great and high Tibetan plateau, the Rocky Mountains and have crossed the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean, the Pacific Ocean three times, the Atlantic three times, the Indian Ocean, Arabian Seas, Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea, and many others.

Hey, you fat cats sitting around out there on those hard uncomfortable seats, if you think this is a bit tiresome and boring, well maybe it is, but just remember it took me a whole lifetime to gain the experience necessary to write this little paragraph and I defy any of you to do it any quicker. This is not a story of 80 days around the world but of 30 years of service and thoughtful contemplation, study and service, around the world. Some of you more thoughtful ones ask, How did one man do all of these things? Well, I'll tell you how – by believing what Jesus said – He said, “Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find.” Most of us spend all of our lives worshiping God in our poor weak ways and yet we do not believe these two simple statements in the Bible, and yet, there they are in the plainest language.

In the course of performing these duties I have personally known and worked with and for four United Nations Commanders Far East, three Directors of U.S. Operations Missions, Ambassadors of several countries, generals, and ministers of many countries. Have personally known the Emperor of Japan, a President of the Philippines, two Presidents of the Republic of Korea, two Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the King of Thailand, and have met the Queen of Nepal and the Shah of Iran.

This is not a brag sheet by any means but I do think it is a feat of no small accomplishment for a sharecropper's son raised on a farm of less than 100 acres with very little education to begin such a life undertaking among such prestigious persons, many of great world renown.

My technical papers, articles, reports, and recommendations, have been published in eight languages: English, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Urdu, Punjabi, Sindi, Bengali. Whatsoever you believe, it shall be done unto you in like manner as you believe.

*M. Vane Wilks*

[He died at age 71, on 17 Nov 1980, so wrote this the year before his death]